

[CONFIDENTIAL]

SELECTIONS

FROM THE

VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE PANJAB,

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES,

OUDE, CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BEHAR,

Received up to 26th October, 1876.

POLITICAL.

The *Akhbār-i-Dabdash Qaisri* of the 19th October says:

Circulation,
136 copies.

The Kabul expedition.

Now-a-days the Kabul expedition is the topic discussed in every company and newspaper; wherever we turn we hear of military preparations made for the coming war. The people may say whatever they please, but the fight will be no fiercer than that between a sheep and a lion. In what respect can the miserable Kabulis be a match for our Government? Let the past be past. Dost Muhammad Khan and Akbar Khan cannot come to life again. And what did they do? The simple fact was that the British Government was unable to operate during the winter season, as the native sepoy could not have borne the severity of the weather. But we have now a far larger number of European soldiers who can well endure the extreme cold of Kabul. Certainly the Amir's forces are not much less in number, and are inspired by national unity, but in the arts of war they are nothing in comparison with British troops. It is sheer folly to doubt which will suffer when a knife and a melon meet. Our Government does not really mean to do harm to

the Amir, these preparations are to drive him into the right path. If he be a prudent man he will well consider the consequence of his proceedings, and hasten to beg pardon for his misconduct. The great object of our Government in preserving the independence of Kabul is that otherwise it would have to keep a large force, worthy of the high rank and reputation of the British empire, on the Afghanistan frontier, for the Russian dominions would be on the other side. Up to this time Government has not done any harm to Kabul, but if the latter is really under the influence of the malignant stars, she cannot escape the inevitable fate—the ruin of her independence. It is very surprising to us why the British forces are put to so much needless trouble by being moved here and there in an aimless way for the expedition. It is a good opportunity to exercise the armies of Native States which are sufficient to uproot Kabul on a mere hint of the Government.

Circulation,
820 copies.

The *Oudh Akhbār* of the 21st October, after describing at some length the power of the British Government, observes that to put down Afghanistan is not a difficult task for it, since it has conquered France in the zenith of her glory; defeated Russia in the Crimea and Sebastapool; trode down Spain under its feet; and compelled the Chinese to sue for peace and yield to its terms. But our Government is averse to haste, and never does any thing before fully considering the consequences. It was heartily anxious to avoid bloodshed as far as possible, but when it saw that by no other means could this matter be settled, it despatched its forces to the frontier to invade Kabul should it be found necessary. Much praise is due to our Government for this. Some English newspapers advise us to begin hostile operations at once, but it is impossible to do so until the Amir plainly replies to the letter of the Viceroy. We learn from some newspapers that Ghulam Hussain Khan, C.S.I., is returning from Kabul with the Amir's reply and presents to the Governor-General. The avoidance of war and bloodshed

rests with the Amir, for this quarrel has arisen from his own imprudence, and will be settled by his apologising for it. The prospect of peace is close at hand, if he but takes the right path. If he does not do so, the fate of Kabul will be far worse than what it was after the last expedition, for the British Government has now far larger and better equipped and trained forces.

Circulation,
350 copies.

The *Lawrence Gazette* of the 24th October says that its agent in Delhi has learnt the following particulars on the 13th instant about Kabul from a respectable Kabuli merchant, Niamat Khan, who has just arrived from that country. He has extensive mercantile business between Kabul and Calcutta :—

The Russian Ambassador used to stay formerly at Kabul for four or five days, but this time he has been staying in Kabul for four months. He has several Russian officers with him. The Amir has assigned one of his beautiful gardens for his residence. Since his arrival the Amir regularly attends Darbar every day, and whenever he has to converse with the Russian Envoy, he takes him and his officers into a private room to which no one else is admitted. The late Abdulla Khan, heir apparent, happened once to be present on such an occasion, but the Amir took care to ask him to go out of the room. Nobody can say what conversation passes between them, but it is generally believed every where in Kabul that the Amir has made friendship with the Russians.

The subjects of Kabul are much displeased with the Amir for his conduct. It is the popular belief that if he allows himself to be duped by the Russians, they will, without fail, make him their tributary. Kabul merchants are determined as a body that if such a fate befalls their country they will remove their homes to Peshawar or Lahore, for they profit by British rule, and prefer to live under it rather than under the Russians.

When the intention of the merchants was made known to the Amir, he sent an order to the officers commanding all the passes that no merchant or caravan should be allowed to go to Hindustan, and that every single man should be searched before being allowed to pass, and questioned as to the object of his journey. At this time Niamat Ali, the merchant, had his caravan of eighty camels loaded with dried fruit ready for despatch to Hindustan. On being informed of the Amir's order, he applied to the Darbar to be allowed to go to India, as he had large sums of money due to him in Calcutta. On this he was ordered to go alone and return as soon as possible. He had been scrupulously searched at every pass by the officers stationed there, lest he had letters for any British officer.

The paper adds that its Delhi agent asked this Kabuli merchant whether the Amir was inclined to join the British or the Russians. To which he replied that the Amir was excessively greedy for money, and would offer his friendship to whoever would pay him most. It is rumoured in Kabul that the Russians have already given the Amir much cash and jewels, and have promised to give him more. It is a general belief there that his alliance with the Russians will bring him and his country to ruin. Many times the people of Kabul have prayed for the release of Yakub Khan, but the Amir will not listen to any one. Every one in Kabul is displeased with the ruler, and heartily wishes that he may be deposed and Yakub Khan be placed on the *gaddi* either by the Russians or the British. But the people prefer the latter. On being further questioned, the merchant stated that he did not see the Russian Ambassador and officers with his own eyes.

The Amir is in great pecuniary difficulties, and greatly displeased with the British Government, as it has stopped the subsidiary allowance. The pay of his army is in arrears for nine or ten months, and only a part of the arrears was paid at *Shubharat*. Some forces were sent to the Khaibar Pass and Ali Masjid on the day Ghulam Haidar Khan reached Kabul.

Circulation,
820 copies.

The *Oudh Akhbar* of the 23rd idem says: The Sultan of Turkey has advised the Amir of Kabul in a telegram to be consistent in his professions of friendship for the English, just as he is with his own Muhammadan brethren. Great praise is due to the Sultan for his having done this when the Amir is wavering as to what he should do. The Governments of Great Britain and Turkey have always been constant and faithful to their engagements, and are careful to preserve each other's interests. The Turkish papers are warm in their praises of the constancy, justice, and faithfulness of the British Government to its friends, and advises the Amir to be still a friend of the English. One paper entitled *Aljauddiyab Arbi* says: "The Amir of Kabul ought to abide by the advise of our Sultan; he should constantly recollect the fate to which the Russians have reduced the Muhammadans of Central Asia." We hope the conduct of the Amir will henceforth prove to be praiseworthy, and that the British Government will show him due consideration.

The same paper expresses its belief that Ghulam Husain Khan has returned from Kabul charged with a message of peace from the Amir. The reply is probably before the Council of the Viceroy by this time for consideration. The editor is impatient to know the contents of it. He believes that Ghulam Husain Khan has probably learned the thoughts of the people of Kabul about the proceedings of their ruler. It will be known by the last week of this month whether all this will end in war or peace.

Circulation,
375 copies.

The *Shola-i-Tur* of the 22nd October says: Though it is rumoured abroad that Nawab Ghulam Husain has returned from Kabul to Peshawar with a message of peace from the Amir, we have reasons to doubt this, as the Government is still steadily and actively carrying on military preparations at the expense of much labour and money. Were the prospect of peace assur-

ing the Government would cease from incurring this useless expenditure. We learn that the Amir has greatly strengthened the Khaibar Pass and Ali Masjid with guns and troops. He has sent a large force to Kandahar, and is steadily making other military preparations, and fortifying the frontier. He is exciting the Afridis and other frontier tribes that are in alliance with the British Government to forsake it, and is oppressing the families of those Afghans that are in our employ. On account of this many have been compelled to resign the service. The Amir's forces have so far advanced that they are only four miles from Jamrud, the extremity of our dominions, where the British armies lie encamped. The Amir has released his son Yakub Khan from captivity, and sent him and Daud Shah, Commander-in-Chief of the Afghan forces, to Ali Masjid to meet us in case war breaks out. These facts make us doubt whether the Amir has peaceful intentions. We are sure when the Amir sees that all his preparations are insignificant compared with those of the English, he will be forced to sue for peace, and submit to the terms of the Government.

We learn that Yakub Khan, quarrelling with the Commander-in-Chief wounded him with a knife. On this Yakub Khan has been by the order of the Amir taken prisoner and sent to Kabul. The wounded man is growing worse and worse. It is said that if he dies, the Amir will punish his son for murder. This want of union among themselves cannot fail to be of much advantage to us. If Yakub Khan's life be threatened, he will leave no stone unturned to raise disturbance in the country against his father, and the majority of his countrymen are sure to side with him. It is most likely that when this happens, he will join the British against his father, and thus the Indian Government will be better enabled to gain its end without much bloodshed.

Circulation,
830 copies.

The *Osaka Asahi* of the 24th October, discussing the point as who should be appointed successor to Amir Sher Ali in case he is deposed by the British Government,

says: There are many who think that Yakub Khan, being so erascible and turbulent, will not implicitly obey the Government when placed on his father's *gaddi*. It can hardly be expected that he will be so far lost to good sense as not to show gratitude to the Government which releases him from captivity and the tyranny of his father, and places him on the *gaddi* of an independent kingdom. For the present we can not find a worthier successor among the royal family of Kabul.

Circulation,
175 copies.

The *Vrita Dhára* of the 21st October says: We learn that Nawab Ghulam Husain has returned from Kabul with the Amir's reply, which is said to be by no means favourable. If such is the case no time should be lost in invading Afghanistan, so that the Amir may have no time left to make further preparations for meeting the coming storm.

The *Panjabi Akhbār* of the 19th October, being of the same opinion as is expressed by the British Government. *Shola-i-Tār* of the 22nd idem (see page 907), advises the Government to persuade Yakub Khan to join it against his father. It is very likely that the Khans of Herat and Kandahar will side with him, and thus our Government will be better enabled to effect its ends.

Circulation,
300 copies.

It is worth noticing that the Sikh and Gurkha regiments are mostly being sent to the Kabul expedition, to the exclusion of the Hindustani Hindu and Muhammadan ones. Every sepoy in the Government employ has a right to serve it, and would be rejoiced to go with the expedition. Why is one regiment favoured to the disappointment of others? Some suppose that the native Muhammadans will refuse to fight against their co-religionists. But the Kabulis are not their *isams* and *pirs*, or spiritual teachers, and have no relation with them whatever. Can any sensible man suppose for a moment that the Muhammadan sepoys as a body would forget

that they have eaten the salt of the British Government for years, and received numerous favours from it, and that they and millions of their brethren enjoy the blessings of its benign rule, and could turn faithless to it in the hour of need and join the Kabulis for no better reason than that of their happening to be of the same faith. Most of the Kabul merchants, we learn, would willingly leave their homes in Kabul and settle in India, as they say they enjoy more peace and freedom of trade and protection of life and property under British rule than elsewhere.

Circulation,
425 copies.]

The *Nér-i-Afshan* of the 24th October says : Some say

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that the reason of the Amir's being displeased with the Government is that

the latter refused to put into writing the terms orally made between him and Lord Lawrence and Lord Mayo. But one can hardly expect that the Amir, who has known the English from his very childhood, and received subsidiary allowances, and has ever been faithful in keeping the terms of the treaty, would choose to be displeased with such great friends about so trifling a matter. Even if the Amir is really displeased with us, it is not worth while for our Government to invade Afghanistan to chastise him for no greater fault than that of refusing to receive our envoy. In the editor's opinion it will be well for the present to take possession of the Khaibar Pass, and establish a large British army in Ali Masjid, as by doing so the Amir will be sufficiently punished, and much unnecessary bloodshed be avoided. Besides, the Kharbaris will thus be placed under the British Government, and saved from the oppression of the Amir.

Circulation,
135 copies.]

The *Agra Akhbār* of the 21st idem says : It is the opinion

of many eminent statesmen that the British Government will not be a bit benefited by taking possession of Afghanistan. It would have to maintain a large army at least of a hundred thousand strong for the protection of its frontiers.

It is not beneficial for Government to take possession of Afghanistan.

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and to overawe the turbulent and wild races of the country. The country is very unproductive, and the Government will have to pay millions out of its own pocket to defray the expense of the administration. Therefore our Government has no desire to take possession of it. Its real object by these preparations is to overawe the Amir. The dispute will be settled by his agreeing to let a British Resident remain at his Darbar. When a new treaty is made, we do not think the Government will grant him a foot of land, as there is no territory on the frontier which can be given without causing some difficulty or other. Of course there is a probability of the subsidiary allowance being restored and increased.

It can hardly be expected that the Russians will excite the Amir to fight, and assist him against us. They have been so far weakened, and their resources so far exhausted in the late war, that they will not be able before twenty years to recover their former position, or take the field against a great power like the British.

NATIVE STATES.

The *Oudh Akhbār* of the 24th October praises the Maharaja of Kashmir in no measured terms for his most excellent management during the prevalence of famine in Kashmir. In order to persuade traders to import grain in large quantities to Kashmir, His Highness has issued a proclamation in his State to the effect that whoever imports grain worth Rs. 20,000 will be awarded a *khillat* and Rs. 500, and have all duties and customs on his goods remitted. The grain-dealers and traders have been assured that no interference will be made in their trade. Poorhouses have been established in Kashmir from which food is daily distributed to thousands of the poor. Relief works have been opened everywhere. Diván Anant Rám, Babu Nilambar, Pandit Badri Náth, and Pandit Mahánand have been appointed to

Circulation,
820 copies.

manage the famine. His Highness has hired one thousand camels so that no delay should occur in carrying grain for the relief of the poor.

Circulation,
100 copies.

The *Akhbar Jalwa-i-Tar* of the 24th October strongly refutes the assertion of the *Old and Military Gazette* that Nawab Mir Ali Murad, of Khairpur, Sindh, is negotiating with the Amir. Such foolish and false charges on the reputation of so faithful and loyal prince can be well laughed to scorn. The nawab is a *shia* and the Amir a *sunnī*, and between these sects a fierce hatred has existed for hundreds of years. Can a union be effected between two such princes? It is criminal in the paper to publish such a false and groundless rumour. It is very likely that some faithless and disaffected servant of the State may have misinformed the paper.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

Circulation,
260 copies.

A correspondent of the *Vakil-i-Hindustan* of the 19th October, writing from Tarantaran, complains that in spite of the express order from the district authorities of Amritsar, the patwaris are detained for days together in the tahsil to their great vexation and inconvenience. As they have to perform a number of multifarious duties, their work cannot but suffer when they are so detained to no purpose. The correspondent prays that an imperative order be issued forbidding the tahsildars doing so.

Circulation,
350 copies.

The *Mirat-ul-Hind* of the 15th October puts forward the claims of Government servants in the settlement department for pension. It expresses its surprise that those who are charged with such important duties as those of settlement are not entitled to pension. If Government will not concede this, they will be disheartened and will incline to dishonest courses.

The Oudh Akhbar of the 20th idem says: It is most necessary for the improvement of Exhibitions should be made oftener than at present done, agricultural productions, fine arts, and trade that Government should hold exhibitions at least every three months in large districts like Agra, Bareilly, Delhi, Meerut, Lahore, Multan, Patna, and Lucknow, &c., and publish the name of the best producers, artisans, and artists in the *Government Gazette* and other English and vernacular newspapers of the country. This would establish their reputation, and thus enable them to earn much more than before, and would be an inducement to others to improve and bring their productions to the exhibition. Besides this the artisans and traders will be no less benefited by exposing their goods and productions for sale in the exhibition. Though at present the city of Lucknow contains the best and most skilful weavers, potters, tailors, confectioners, and others in India, yet for want of such an exhibition nobody can say who is the most skilful among them. The costs of such exhibitions to Government will be very little, and can be easily defrayed. The price of admission tickets should be low so that every one might be able to visit the exhibition. A small fee from those that expose their goods for sale in the exhibition might be levied.

Circulation,
820 copies.

LOCAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

A correspondent of the *Oudh Akhbar* of the 21st October, writing from Calcutta, complains that Complaint against the East Indian Railway for want of water supply. passengers travelling on the East Indian Railway are put to much inconvenience for want of proper supply of water at the stations, especially on those where two passenger trains meet. Generally every station, whether large or small, has a Brahman and a *bhishti*, but at the larger ones the concourse of people requiring water is often so great that the Brahman's bucket-full of water is soon exhausted, while the occupants of the other carriages are crying in vain for water. It is impossible for

Circulation,
820 copies.

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him to fetch another bucket of water during the time the train stays at the station. Thus the poor passengers travel crying for water from station to station. The correspondent prays that more than one man may be employed as water-carriers at large stations.

Circulation,
250 copies.

The *Berar Samachar* of the 20th October complains that the Akola municipality exacts the tax to pay the sweepers even from persons who have ceased to live within the limits of the municipality, and from the relations of those that have died, and from the owners of empty houses.

Circulation,
260 copies.

A correspondent of the *Vakil-i-Hindustan* of the 19th idem, writing from Lahore, complains that when so much is being done for the embellishment and decoration of the streets and gardens of Anarkali, nothing has yet been done to repair and construct the streets of the internal part of the city, which are in a far worse state than the common country roads.

Circulation
250 copies.

The *Berar Samachar* of the 20th idem recommends that Bhaskar Sakharam Jaiwant, clerk of the court of the judicial commissioner of Berar, should be appointed to the post of extra assistant commissioner which is at present vacant, as he is one of the oldest and most experienced Government officers in Berar.

Circulation,
125 copies.

A correspondent of the *Nasrat-ul-Akhbar* of the 21st October, writing from Kundali, zila Narsinghpur, says: Once Rai Bhog Chand, extra assistant commissioner, told Munshi Faiz Muhammad Khan, his reader, that if he did not cease from praying he should be dismissed the service. The munshi refused and was dismissed. Being thus deprived of the means of livelihood, he took up his abode in an old mosque built of stone. As stones were required for the con-

struction of a *ghat* on the river, Rai Bhog Chand advised the deputy commissioner to dig stones from that mosque for the purpose, and on the 8th October took him to inspect it. The deputy commissioner, agreeing with the Rai, ordered it to be demolished, and forthwith labourers were employed to pull it down. Faiz Muhammad earnestly besought them not to do so, but they did not listen to his entreaties. He was irritated to such a degree that he fired a pistol at the Rai, but fortunately he missed his aim. Seeing this the deputy commissioner ran to him and struck him with his hunting-whip, but Faiz Muhammad turned his pistol upon him and killed him at the first shot. A railway servant who was standing by ran to snatch the pistol from the murderer's hand and seize him, but he fired and killed him. At last Faiz Muhammad was taken prisoner and sentenced to be hanged by the criminal court. To speak the honest truth, Rai Bhog Chand provoked him to anger, and caused him to commit the heinous crime of murder. Such arbitrary proceedings on the part of officers bring disrepute on the Government they serve, and cause a serious breach between the governor and the governed.

LIST OF PAPERS EXAMINED.

NAME.	LOCALITY.	LANGUAGE.	MONTHLY, OR WEEKLY, OR OTHERWISE.	NAME OF PUBLISHER.	DATE OF PAPER.	DAYS OF RE-PRINT.	COPYES.
1 Agra Akhbar	Agra	Urdu	Weekly	Khawaja Usaf Ali,	1878. Octr. 21st	1878. Octr. 25th	120 copies.
2 Akhbar-i-Azam	Meerut	Ditto	Ditto	Kamta Prasad	" 19th	" 22nd	100
3 Akhbar-i-Tammasi,	Lucknow,	Ditto	Ditto	Puran Chaud	" 24th	" 26th	112
4 Akhbar-ul-Akhbar	Delhi	Ditto	Ditto	Sayyid Fakhr-ud-din.	" 20th	" 24th	100
5 Aligarh Institute Gazette.	Aligarh	Urdu-English.	Bi-weekly.	Hon'ble Sayyid Ahmad Khan, Bahadur, C. S. I.	" 19th & 25th.	" 21st & 27th respectively.	224 copies (including 40 copies taken by Govt.)
6 Almorah Akhbar	Almorah,	Hindi	Bi-monthly.	Sada Nand	" 15th	" 20th	50 copies.
7 Anjuman-i-Panjab	Lahore	Urdu	Weekly		" 18th	" 22nd	400 copies (including 200 copies taken by Govt.)
8 Arya Mitta	Benares	Hindi	Ditto	Baba Bhutmath	" 21st	" 21st	100
9 Ashraf-ul-Akhbar	Delhi	Urdu	Tri-monthly.	Mirza Khan	" 24th	" 26th	100
10 Benares Akhbar	Benares	Hindi	Weekly	Bishwa Nath Bhutta	" 15th & 22nd	" 21st & 28th	250
11 Berar Mitra	Ellichpur,	Marathi	Ditto	Eknath Sakharam,	" 20th	" 23rd	250
12 Berar Samachar	Akola	Ditto	Ditto	Khande Rao Balsale,	" 11th & 18th	" 25th	250
13 Bostan-ul-Ashiqin	Lucknow,	Urdu	Ditto	Mubammad Vazir Ali.	" 19th	" 21st	100
14 Dabtabak Qasri	Bareilly	Ditto	Ditto	Raj Bahadur.	" 21st	" 23rd	100
15 Dabtabak Shikandi,	Rampur	Ditto	Ditto	Mubammad Hussain Khan.	" 21st	" 23rd	100
16 Dabtabak Samy Patri.	Aligarh	Hindi-Urdu.	Bi-monthly.	Bedri Prasad	" 21st	" 23rd	575

List of papers examined—(continued).

NAME.	LOCALITY.	LANGUAGE.	MONTHLY, WEEKLY, OR OTHERWISE.	NAME OF PUBLISHER.	DAYS OF PAPER.	DATE OF RECEIPT.	CIRCULATION.
39 <i>Nasim-i-Agra</i>	Agra	Urdu	Tri-monthly	Yudhister Chandar Das.	Octr. 20th	1878. Octr. 23rd	150 copies.
40 <i>Nas-i-Afshan</i>	Ludhiana	Ditto	Weekly	Rev. A. P. Kalso	24th	26th	425
41 <i>Nas-ul-Anwar</i>	Cawnpore,	Ditto	Ditto	Muhammed Yaqub,	26th	"	450
42 <i>Nusrat-ul-Akhdar</i>	Delhi	Ditto	Tri-monthly,	"	21st	24th	125
43 <i>Nusrat-ul-Islem</i>	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	"	"	"	50
44 <i>Qudh Akhdar</i>	Lucknow,	Ditto	Daily	Sheo Prasad	21st to 26th	" 21st to 26th, respectively.	220 copies (including 20 copies taken by Govt.)
45 <i>Qudh Panch</i>	Ditto	Ditto	Weekly	Sajjad Husain	22nd	24th	400 copies
46 <i>Farjib-i-Akhdar</i>	Lahore	Ditto	Ditto	"	19th	21st	300
47 <i>Patiala Akhdar</i>	Patiala	Ditto	Ditto	Rikhi Kesh	21st	24th	240
48 <i>Phanindrapur</i>	Mani Nagpur	Marathi	Ditto	"	14th	26th	100
49 <i>Pramod Sindha</i>	Umraoti	Ditto	Ditto	Lshvant Gobind Sarker.	21st	23rd	155
50 <i>Prince of Wales Gazette</i>	Meerut	Urdu	Ditto	Rai Ganesh Lal	20th	21st	50 copies
51 <i>Riaz-ul-Akhdar</i>	Khairabad	Ditto	Tri-monthly,	Sayyid Riaz	15th	20th	220 copies
52 <i>Rohilkhand Akhdar</i>	Moradabad	Ditto	Weekly	Harnam Sarup	19th	22nd	125 copies
53 <i>Sadiq-ul-Akhdar</i>	Rawalpur	Ditto	Ditto	Lal Singh	14th and 21st	" 20th & 26th, respectively.	100
54 <i>Safar-i-Bukhad</i>	Muzaffarnagar.	Ditto	Ditto	Bas Amrit Singh	14th	24th	100

56 Shola-i-Tar	... Cawnpore,	Ditto	... Haidar Ali	... 22nd	...	24th	...	275	"
57 Sohail Hind	... Meerut	Ditto	... Kamta Prasad	...	...	25th	...	146	"
58 Vakil-i-Hindustan	... Amritsar,	Ditto	... Babu Ishan Chandar.	...	...	21st	...	260	"
59 Vrit Dhara	... Dhár	Marathi	... Ram Chand Balvant	...	...	24th	...	175	"

ALLAHABAD,

The 30th October, 1878.

KASHI NATH,

Offg. Govt. Reporter on the Vernacular Press of Upper India.

